



THE RUDDER

Sailings of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps



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July 2024

Volume 12, Issue 5

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Cover Photo: This month's Specialty in the Spotlight is Optometry! See more on pages 16 and 17!

FROM THE MSC DIRECTOR

Esteemed Colleagues,

Greetings to all our Medical Service Corps officers stationed around the world. It is my pleasure to present to you the July 2024 edition of "The Rudder." As you know, it is the middle of August. I apologize for the delay. Like many of you, PCS season has impacted our lives both in and out of the office. For all of you moving this summer, I wish safe travels to you and your families.

Optometry is our Specialty in the Spotlight for this issue. As such, I would like to give immense recognition to our key leaders for their exceptional leadership of more than 100 optometrists — CAPT Robert Senko, Specialty Leader; CAPT Sharlene Gee, Reserve Specialty Leader; CDR Ann MacDonald, Assistant Specialty Leader; and CDR Megan Rieman, Assistant Specialty Leader. Optometrists accounted for five percent of 251 MSC plankowners in 1947, and the specialty continues to thrive and to reach new heights ashore, afloat, and in the air. Please turn to pages 16 and 17 to read more about Optometry.

Speaking of specialty leaders, hats off to our outgoing Health Facility Planning and Project Officer Specialty Leader, CDR Alex Aldana, and our outgoing Financial Management Specialty Leader, CDR Jodi Phillips, for a job well done! We look forward to their successors, LCDR Brendan Good and CDR John Ochieng, respectively, carrying on the leadership torch. Fittingly, Financial Management is our HRO Specialty Spotlight. Please turn to page 12 to learn about how some of one of our Navy Medicine comptrollers, LCDR Edward Agbeveytamakloe, collaborated with the Department of Veterans Affairs to mitigate claim denials.

I would also like to extend a Bravo Zulu to LT Carrie B. Ramirez, a Medical Laboratory Scientist and Laboratory Department Head representing NMRTC Beaufort, for receiving the CAPT Joy Bright Hancock Award (Junior Officer category) at the recent Joint Women's Leadership Symposium. You can read more about LT Ramirez's stellar accomplishment on the lower half of page 3. Solid kudos to LT Ramirez for her contributions that are being recognized by the Navy, Navy Medicine, and the Medical Service Corps!

Be sure to check out our newest Rudder section, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Spotlight, on page 10. This quarterly offering, which was initiated by LCDR Raza Beg, will spotlight the wide array of programs in which our



(continued on next page)

fellow MSCs are enrolled at this distinguished graduate-level institution, in hopes of educating our Corps about the certificate programs as well as master's and doctoral degree program for which you can pursue. Thank you, LCDR Beg and LCDR Tahan, whose educational journey at NPS is highlighted in this inaugural article, for kicking off this innovative idea!

We also remember CAPT (Ret.) George M. Stant, Jr. who passed away last month in Merritt Island, Fla. He was a giant in the MSC community as well as the originator and first instructor of the Financial and Materiel Management Training Course, which continues to prepare MSC officers and BUMED-identified civil service personnel for assignment to Navy Medical Department's resources and materiel management career fields. Our tribute to CAPT Stant can be found on page 6.

In closing, I cannot thank each and everyone of you enough for the drive, caliber, and motivation you bring to reach Navy Medicine's North Star and to execute our Navy Surgeon General's four main Lines of Effort. I commend you because each line of effort is exemplified in the pages of every edition of "The Rudder." Please enjoy the rest of the summer with your family, friends, and colleagues. Onward. Forward.

*With respect
and admiration! M. Case*

M. CASE

Rear Admiral, Medical Service Corps

United States Navy

Director, Medical Service Corps



Arlington, Va. Pictured above in the left photo (L-R): VADM Rick Cheeseman, the Chief of Naval Personnel, presents the CAPT Joy Bright Hancock Award (Junior Officer category) to LT Carrie B. Ramirez, a Medical Laboratory Scientist from NMRTC Beaufort, during the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium (JWLS) that was held 26-27 June 2024. Established in 1987, this award is presented annually to honor the visionary leadership of Navy Service members whose ideals and dedication both on and off-duty foster an inclusive culture by furthering the integration of women in the Navy. Every year, the Sea Services Leadership Association hosts the annual JWLS, which is the largest gathering of women in uniform, welcoming men and women to join them. LT Ramirez, speaking in the above right photo after receiving her award, is the department head of the laboratory and the assistant legal officer at NMRTC Beaufort.

CORPS CHIEF'S OFFICE

1804 SPECIALTY LEADER UPDATE

**Outgoing HFPPO Specialty Leader**

CDR Alex Aldana

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A tremendous note of appreciation to CDR Alex Aldana for his three years of tireless leadership at the helm of the Health Facility Planning & Project Officer (HFPPO) community. His experience and unique problem-solving skills were instrumental in positioning the subspecialty for success in the present as well as in the future.

LCDR Brendan Good was appointed as the Specialty Leader in May 2024 after serving as the Assistant Specialty Leader from 2021 to 2024. He will build upon the progress made by CDR Aldana and emphasize three main tenets: training standardization, the recruitment of qualified individuals, and pushing community members to be experts in their field as well as well-rounded Naval officers. He is honored to lead the subspecialty, and to support and to mentor its outstanding group of officers.

**Incoming HFPPO Specialty Leader**

LCDR Brendan Good

Phone: (703) 472-1434

Email: brendan.h.good.mil@health.mil

3110 & 3111 SPECIALTY LEADER UPDATE



**Outgoing Financial Management
Specialty Leader**

CDR Jodi Phillips

Phone: (619) 532-6626

Email: jodi.m.phillips.mil@health.mil



An immense gratitude to CDR Jodi Phillips for her three years of steadfast leadership while serving as the Financial Management (FM)/Comptroller Specialty Leader. During her tenure, the community successfully made significant and lasting progress towards professional development, billet restorations, promotions, and leadership development.

CDR John Ochieng has been serving as the Assistant Specialty Leader since October 2021 and is honored and humbled to be entrusted with the opportunity to continue serving the community as the Specialty Leader during the ongoing huge transformational changes and the needs of the financial management/comptrollers in Navy Medicine, the Defense Health Agency, and the Military Health System.



Incoming Financial Management Specialty Leader

CDR John Ochieng

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THE CORPS CHIEF'S BOOK CLUB

"Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds" by David Goggins

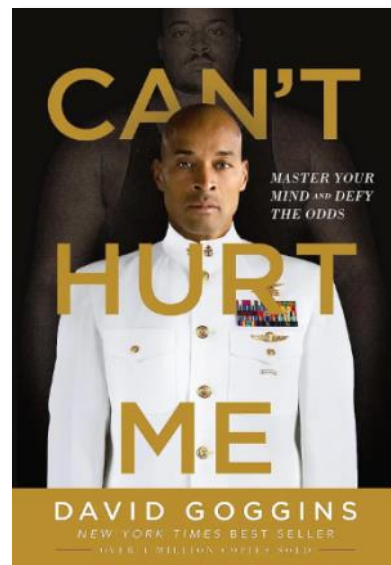
Recommended by: Julius L. Evans, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command, Williamsburg, Va.

Summary: David Goggins is a retired U.S. Navy SEAL and is the only member of the U.S. Armed Forces to complete SEAL training (including two Hell Weeks), the U.S. Army Ranger School (where he graduated as Enlisted Honor Man), and Air Force Tactical Air Controller training.

In his enthralling book, "Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds," Goggins tells the terrible story of abuse he and his family suffered at the hands of his father. He describes how he grew up, with his mother and brother in the house of a tyrant. He describes how he worked a dead-end job, the details of which may make your skin crawl. He explains how he pulled himself up from despair and into the world of military special forces.

You are going to feel like his feats were unimaginable and unattainable, but you will wonder if you could endure the same things. His roadwork is legendary as told by others who trained with him. This book is a much about distance running as it is about the Navy SEALs because Goggins is an ultramarathon runner, an ultra-distance cyclist, a triathlete, and was inducted into the International Sports Hall of Fame. In 2013, Goggins broke the Guinness World Record title for the most pull-ups in a 24-hour period — 4,030 pull-ups in 17 hours and 16 minutes.

But the most grueling parts of the book describe how he worked through adversity throughout his career and his home life. He ran miles on fractured limbs. In pursuing other goals, he faced death multiple times to defeat it and ultimately to achieve success. This is an important read for everyone interested in exceeding personal limits, or who is motivated by those who do. Every time I find myself against a limitation, I think of this story. His unique style of motivation takes getting used to, but no truer words are spoken than from those who have faced defeat and persevered.



"The Hard Truth About Soft Skills" by Peggy Klaus

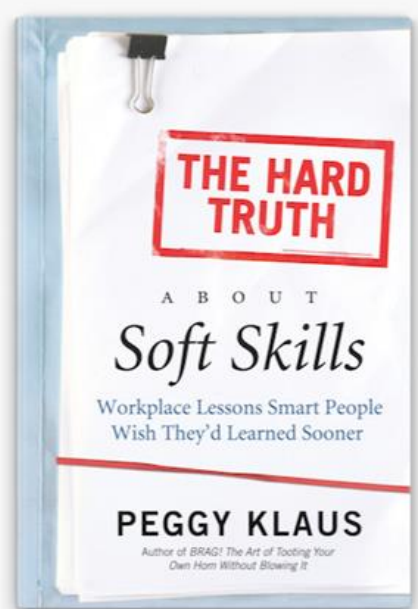
Recommended by: LCDR Nicole Plazio, HCA, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Falls Church, Va.

Summary: Soft skills have been a topic of conversation in mentoring sessions throughout my career and I was looking for a tool to help me better explain what they are and how they can impact someone's career if not taken seriously. The book "The Hard Truth About Soft Skills" by Peggy Klaus exceeded my expectations.

The author asserts that soft skills suffer from "a fundamental lack of respect." The author demonstrates how technical expertise apart, soft skills are what turn managers into leaders that build organizations. She highlights 54 important soft skills that include self-assessment and self-awareness, leadership, handling office politics, communication, career management, integrity, table manners, personal branding, and even coping with inter-generational workplaces.

Five key takeaways include: (1) Get out of your own way, (2) The response to what happens to us is up to us, (3) Communication – can make or break your career, (4) Learn to handle criticism, and (5) Office politics are "inevitable and unavoidable."

Each chapter covers a set of related skills under the umbrella of a main skill. This is a quick read because the chapters are quite small with some being a one pager with anecdotes from her coaching career to illustrate each point. This is the perfect book to add to your toolbox this summer!





ATTENTION!

Officer of the Year
nomination packages
are due to your Specialty
Leader on 10 Oct 2024

Please reference tasker
DON-240716-XJTD or speak with
your local command for more
information

SPOUSE CO-LOCATIONS: DISCUSS THIS TOPIC WITH YOUR DETAILER EARLY!

BLUF: Spouse co-location assignments are fully supported by the Chief of Naval Personnel and, when requested, become the highest priority and main duty preference, consistent with needs of the Navy.

What is co-location?

Co-location is when a married couple of two military members are able to move together and to establish a joint household. It can be two Navy members, or a Navy member married to a member of another uniformed service. Co-location does not include assignment for duty near a civilian spouse, including civilian Government employees.

When does co-location not apply?

Members can decide not to be co-located, and this would need to be communicated by both members to their respective detailers. Also, co-location may not be achievable during a training assignment, nor during the utilization tour immediately following the training assignment.

What are some other restrictions or difficulties with co-location?

- Assignments will be made to fill valid Navy requirements, considering the needs of the military family, as well as the manning of the losing and gaining activities; therefore, co-location and immediate reassignment may not always be possible.
- Co-location of Navy members with members of other uniformed services or services of other countries are much more difficult and may not always be possible.
- While there is no established maximum distance between duty stations for co-location, 90 driving miles should be used as a guide when considering co-location requests.

- Fulfilling duty preferences for geographical location, or type of duty or unit, may not be possible.
- Military couples will not be permanently assigned to the same ship or the same shipboard deployable command.
- Members will not be assigned to the same command ashore with the same reporting senior without the gaining commanding officer's concurrence.

How do I apply for co-location status?

Requests for co-location will not be considered, unless the members are married at the time of request. Officers desiring co-location must each submit a one-time request on NAVPERS 1301/85, with command endorsement, to their detailers noting their military couple status, service of spouse, and spouse's detailer's contact information. Both members must be in agreement that co-location is desired.

If you have any questions about co-location, please contact your MSC detailer, and we will be happy to assist. For the full Navy policy on co-location, please see [MILPERSMAN 1300-1000](#).

Detailing Notes

- Orders are being released through November 2024
- Contact your detailer 12 months from your PCS date



RESERVE UPDATE

OPERATIONAL MEDICINE 2024 SYMPOSIUM

By: LT Katherine Parizek, Deputy MSC Reserve Affairs Officer

Navy Reserve Medical Service Corps Officers attended the Operational Medicine (OPMED) 2024 symposium held onboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 31 May through 2 June 2024. The purpose of the OPMED symposium is to increase knowledge and skills that relate to breadth and scope of support required in a complex maritime medical environment associated with high intensity operations during high end competition, crisis, or conflict, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2024 Navy Medicine Campaign Order.



Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above. Navy Reserve MSC officers attend OPMED 2024. Back row (L-R): LT Laura Baker, PA; LCDR Duane Ehredt, Podiatry; CAPT Ken McAndrews, Pharmacy/Reserve Affairs Officer; and CDR Brian Potoski, Pharmacy. Front row (L-R): LCDR Abby Roberts, PA; LT Lauren Montano, PA; LCDR Brittany Mertz, PA; and CAPT Katherine Ormsbee, POMI. CAPT Anthony LaCourse, PA, was also in attendance.



Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above: LCDR Duane Ehredt, Podiatry, delivers a lecture entitled, "OMT pain relieving techniques for the medical generalist," at the OPMED 2024 symposium.

ARE YOU CONSIDERING LEAVING ACTIVE DUTY?

— — — — —

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JOINING THE NAVY RESERVE?

OUR MSC RESERVE COMMUNITY INCLUDES OVER 350 MSCS ACROSS 18 OF THE 31 MSC SPECIALTIES WHO SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATE ACROSS THE NAVY ENTERPRISE. IMMEDIATE BENEFITS INCLUDE: A PAYCHECK, LIFE INSURANCE, MAINTAINING YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE, COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES, AND ADDING TO YOUR RETIREMENT POINTS. AS A RESERVIST YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE INSURANCE AND DENTAL INSURANCE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS WELL AS CONTINUED ENROLLMENT IN THE THRIFT SAVING PLAN AND A GI BILL TRANSFER. YOU MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A RETENTION OR INCENTIVE BONUS. MOST IMPORTANTLY YOU WILL MAINTAIN VALUABLE SKILLS AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR PROMOTION AND CRITICAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. WHY NOT CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST NAVY AND THE NAVY'S GREATEST CORPS? FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS RESERVE AFFAIRS OFFICER, CAPT KENNETH MCANDREWS AT [KENNETH.L.MCANDREWS2.MIL@HEALTH.MIL](mailto:kenneth.l.mcandrews2.mil@health.mil).

HIGHLIGHTING INFORMATION SCIENCES DOCTORAL PROGRAM AT NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

By: LCDR Nabil Tahan, Health Information Technology, Naval Postgraduate School

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) stands as a distinguished graduate-level institution in the United States, offering an array of certificate programs, as well as master's and doctoral degrees across various disciplines. At NPS, an innovative chapter unfolds with LCDR Nabil Tahan pioneering as the institution's first PhD candidate from the Navy's Medical Service Corps in the realm of Information Sciences via the Information Sciences Doctoral program (Curriculum 474). His research endeavors to fuse the critical domains of health information technology, network sciences, and human-socio-technical systems, aiming to bolster the resilience of social networks within military healthcare. NPS provides a plethora of resources, testbeds, and opportunities to its students, combined with the support of world-renowned faculty across a vast number of disciplines.

For LCDR Tahan, technology implementation, adaptation, and acceptance stood out as potential phenomena for further study. Shortage of Health Information Technology Management (HITM) professionals has become common since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, thus leaving vulnerable gaps in critical operational capabilities. Studying how groups changed during these phases of implementation served as a key to understanding what the effects of disruptive shocks are to social networks and how they recovered or bounced back.

Amidst this deficit in HITM professionals, LCDR Tahan's study addresses pressing issues of social network changes before and after technological disruption, and also aims to pave the way for future successful implementations of similar technologies, and to transcend the common pitfalls of digital modernization efforts during periods of organizational transformation. LCDR Tahan's research explores changes in



Monterrey, Calif. Pictured above: LCDR Tahan demonstrates the viability of his social network model during a PhD research seminar.

social networks during a digital transformation.

"This has been painstaking work, and especially during a turbulent time not only in the world, but in my personal life, with the passing of my dad during the height of the pandemic," said LCDR Tahan. "Through mustering whatever remained of my own personal resilience, I wanted to incorporate the importance of the social network resilience of my medical community and provide an opportunity to better understand the social structures that dictate information flow among the healthcare providers and health information management and technology staff — the unsung heroes of all medical facilities around the world."



Monterrey, Calif. Pictured above: LCDR Tahan (center) celebrates with faculty and fellow students in light of successfully defending his topic proposal, achieving Ph.D. candidacy and his promotion to his current rank on the same day.

IN MEMORIAM



CAPT (Ret.) George M. Stant, Jr.

Healthcare Administration

28 March 1941 – 25 June 2024

CAPT George M. Stant, Jr. passed away 25 June 2024 at age 83 in Merritt Island, Fla.

CAPT Stant joined the U.S. Navy on 7 February 1964. After completing 30 years of honorable service achieving the rank of Captain, he retired on 30 September 1993 in San Diego, Calif. CAPT Stant served in a wide variety of health care administrative roles throughout his 30-year Navy career. Following graduation from American University in Washington, D.C., he received a commission as an Ensign in the Navy Medical Service Corps and started his career at the Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, U. S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Naval Hospital Annapolis, and Naval Hospital Chelsea.

He served as Chief of Finance at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, M.D., from January 1974 through August 1974. He then served at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D.C. In 1977 then CDR Stant developed and became the first instructor of the Navy Medicine Financial and Materiel Management Course at the Naval School of Health Sciences in Bethesda. This course of study has trained hundreds of Navy Medical Service Corps Officers and has been the cornerstone of sound financial and materiel management for Navy Medicine for nearly half a century. CAPT Stant continued his career as Comptroller at the National Naval Medical Center during the construction and opening of the new wing of the hospital in 1982. He returned to the Commander Naval Medical Command, Washington, D.C. from 1982 to 1986. He continued his career as the Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Information Management Center in Bethesda, and served as the Chief Information Officer for the Navy Medical Department. Following that assignment he served as the Officer In Charge, Health Care Support Office, San Diego, Calif.

During his career, CAPT Stant was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in April 1983 as well as in

July 1986, and the Meritorious Service Medal Gold Star in Lieu of Third Award in July 1989. In June 1993, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

He was born in Townsend, Del., to George M. Stant, Sr. and Polly West Stant. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Maureen (Marnie) B. Stant, his daughter Deborah L. Morris (Charles) and his daughter Teresa A. King (Michael) and his grandchildren Alexandra Morris, Christina Morris, Sarah King and Harrison King.

George was a railroad enthusiast and volunteered with the Baltimore Historical Society and the Ohio Historical Society as store operator, board member and webmaster. He had several model railroad layouts in N gauge and HO gauge. He was also a member of the La Mesa Railroad Club in San Diego, Calif. He contributed to his community as a board member and webmaster for his Homeowners' Association and his Condominium Association.

Visitation was held at the Wylie Baxley Funeral Home, 1360 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, Fla., on 10 July 2024. His Mass of Christian Burial was held on 11 July 2024 at Divine Mercy Catholic Church, 1940 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, Fla. The live stream was available on all three platforms. Website: divinemercychurch.org; YouTube: [divinemercycatholicchurch817](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdivinemercycatholicchurch817); and Facebook: Divine Mercy Catholic Church.

He will then be transported to Francis J. Collins Funeral Home, 500 University Blvd, Silver Spring, M.D. Services will be at a later date. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P. O. Box 22324, New York, NY 10087, noting, "in support of blood cancer research."

HRO SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND USNH GUAM PARTNER ON CLAIM DENIALS PROCESS

For the MSC High Reliability Organizations (HRO) Strategic Goal Group

By: LCDR Edward W. Agbeveytamakloe, PhD, Financial Management, USNMRTC Guam

Comptrollers are proven experts in financial management, analytics, acquisition, civilian personnel management and logistics, enabling them to provide "total" resource services and value to Navy Medicine. They monitor resource execution, track and report command metrics, and ensure commands are operating within higher statutory authority and appropriation law.

LCDR Edward W. Agbeveytamakloe, Financial Management, led United States Naval Hospital (USNH) Guam's Uniform Billing Office (UBO) in a

working partnership with Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to secure access to the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Adjudication Management System mitigated claims denials.

Sensitivity to Operations

LCDR Agbeveytamakloe developed innovative concepts and streamlined USNH Guam reimbursable claims submission process to meet efficient and timely receipt of payments. He coordi-



Agana Heights, Guam. Pictured above: Applying HRO principles directly contributed to USNH Guam's exceptional fiscal stewardship and their rank of No. 4 of 64 MTFs in patient billing and collections. Additionally, as the Command Diversity Officer, LCDR Edward W. Agbeveytamakloe (left) was recognized by the Medical Inspector General (MEDIG) with a Bravo Zulu for leading his command's diversity cabinet members in celebrating cultural awareness events which incorporated an additional event in August 2023 with the theme: "I Belong - All Inclusive Heritage", which he established for "others" who do not have an ethnic identity to celebrate the "I Belong Ethnic Heritage Identity Month" every August. He is joined by Dr. Samuel Roundtree (right), Director of Business Development, Mariana NAVFAC Guam West Pacific, who served as the guest speaker for the diversity event and who is also a retired Navy Supply Corps officer.

nated and tracked progress for implementing the system within the organization and VA counterparts. In this process, he identified barriers as well as interdependencies, thereby identifying needed coordination and/or leadership to increase collections.

Commitment to Resilience

Through LCDR Agbeveytamakloe's work, USNH Guam implemented processes, enabling the organization to increase its revenue and to decrease solvency. These processes also provided services and resources required to maximize Service operational readiness and served in support of both the Military Health System and the Defense Health Agency (DHA).

Deference to Expertise

LCDR Agbeveytamakloe effectively provided financial guidance and streamlined processes to enable timely, data-driven decision making required to validate, to prioritize, and to fund resourcing requirements across the USNH Guam. These efforts ensured beneficiaries — active duty Service members, their dependents, and retirees — maintained access to the highest quality healthcare.

Respect for People

Though not an official tenet of HRO, this process driven approach identified areas of opportunity that could generate additional flexibility to maintain solvency, resources, manpower, and equipment.

Preoccupation with Failure

The USNH Guam and VA billing teams met routinely at every level within and outside the organizations. Any line of effort identified as falling behind was immediately addressed with a mitigation strategy, a tangible due date, and corrective actions executed.

Constancy of Purpose

Though not an official tenet of HRO, LCDR Agbeveytamakloe demonstrated this concept by

diligently leading review and approvals of monthly Resource Planning Tools (RPTs) for USNH Guam. He accurately projected spending plans which ensured the military treatment facility (MTF) had mitigation plans that clearly communicated "go broke" timelines and impacts if they were not adequately funded. Moreover, his expert financial management oversight on the monthly MTF resource plans directly resulted in solvency throughout the fiscal year projections.

Results

Applying these HRO principles directly contributed to USNH Guam's exceptional fiscal stewardship. In turn, this ensured successful accomplishment of Navy Medicine and DHA's mission to fund unfunded requirements to support unmet urgent healthcare capabilities and diligently execute Command's \$60 million appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023 at an impressive execution rate of 99.9%.

Additionally, LCDR Agbeveytamakloe's leadership at USNH Guam led to having first-hand capability of reconciling claims supporting collection efforts and increasing recovery of \$2.6 million from VA patient claim denials. Overall, claims collected totaled \$6 million, and USNH Guam was ranked No. 4 of the 64 MTFs in patient billing and collections. LCDR Agbeveytamakloe's efforts ensured medical providers and staff have the resources they need to provide quality patient care.



CDB: GET THE GOUGE

CONNECTING THE CDB DOTS USING THE STRATEGIC GOAL GROUP'S FOUR LOEs

By: LT Kelson Mosier, HCA, NEPMU-SEVEN

The CDB Strategic Goal Group (SGG) was stood up in April 2020 to assist in the establishment of the MSC Career Development Board (CDB) program. Over the past four years, a group of MSC officers have dedicated their time to assist CDB program managers in building the program from scratch. They have contributed to areas such as program policy, procedures, website functionality, and more. Today, this working group serves MSC communities in four key lines of efforts (LOE) under the current SGG:

LOE 1: Tracking CDBs



LCDR Albert Lee,
Physical Therapy



LCDR Jaime "Cris"
Zhunepluas, HIT

This LOE is led by LCDR Albert Lee, Physical Therapy/CDB Program Manager, and LCDR Jaime "Cris" Zhunepluas, HIT/group member. Chances are, if you are not a Director for Administration, a Specialty Leader, or a CDB Coordinator, then you have not had the opportunity to use the CDB tracker ("the Dashboard") on the Defense Health Agency CarePoint. This data-centric online tool was made possible from several years of effort from this team and its previous members. It provides CDB leaders with a visually pleasing snapshot on the CDB completion

status of their respective command or subspecialty. This is a great tool to ensure no officer in your charge is missing potential connections and resources to enhance their career path. Please refer to the October 2023 edition of "The Rudder" for more details by clicking [here](#).

LOE 2: CDB Tools



LCDR Jonathan
Gomezrivera, Health
Facility Planning &
Project Officer

This LOE is led by LCDR Jonathan Gomezrivera, Health Facility Planning and Project Officer (HFPPO), and the group members include LCDR Serge Shkuro, HFPPO; LT Marat Katsov, HCA; LT Marco Pasco, EHO; LT Kimberly Melin, HCA; and LTJG Conor Bruyn, HCA. The members in this LOE design and create tools to ensure the CDB program's mission completion. This team is responsible for one of the program's most powerful tools — the CDB milBook page! The milBook page recently underwent a revamping effort to streamline and to consolidate resources for all members involved in a CDB, from the Specialty Leader all the way down to the individual officer receiving the CDB. This tool is live and full of critical career development information for every MSC officer. Check out the CDB milBook page [here](#).

LOE 3: Measures of Effectiveness



LCDR James Salassi,
Night Vision Training
Program Manager

This LOE is led by CDB Assistant Program Manager, LCDR James Salassi, NAOP. The group members include LCDR Adrienne Manasco, Clin Psych, and LCDR Stephen Cone, Ops Research. The effort of this LOE has been the cornerstone for CDB program. If you have ever participated in a CDB, all members of the CDB were required to fill out a survey regarding the CDB experience. This survey further asked the individual officer and board members to identify areas for improvement throughout the preparation and execution of the CDB. This is the LOE that made this tool available. The LOE members have taken the last three years of data and provided the CDB program managers and MSC Chief's Office with data-driven improvements to CDB policy, preparation, and execution. In

conjunction with the CDB program managers, this team collaborates amongst all subspecialties and with other Navy Medicine Corps to leverage resources and experiences to make the MSC CDB program a tool of great benefit for all officers.

LOE 4: Marketing



LCDR Dan Xu,
Biochemistry



LT Kelson Mosier,
HCA



LT Cory Beamer,
Physical Therapy



LT Reagan Williams,
HCA

This LOE is led by LCDR Dan Xu, Biochemistry. The group members include CDR Alex Aldana, HFPPO; LCDR Pollyanna Crane, PT; LCDR Michelle Miler, PA; LT Taylor Lura, Entomology; LT Cory Beamer, PT/Poster/Flyer subgroup lead; LT Kelson Mosier, HCA/The Rudder subgroup lead; LT Mark Fisher, HIT; LT Achinth Murali, HCA; LT Reagan Williams, POMI/Social Media subgroup lead; and LTJG Andrew Washington, Med Lab Science. This is a brand new LOE, but you have likely already seen their work in "The Rudder" in the "Get the Gouge!" section. This team aims to bring attention to all of the work that the CDB program manager and his LOE teams produce for the CDB Program. They are also worker bees for creating products for social media, updating CDB handbooks, and for creating other cool tools (coming soon!).

Interested in serving fellow MSC officers in this CDB Strategic Goal Group? Please email the CDB Program Manager, LCDR Albert Lee, at albert.j.lee23.mil@health.mil or the Assistant CDB Program Manager, LT Kelson Mosier at kelson.a.mosier.mil@health.mil

Have any CDB questions? Please email CDB Program Manager LCDR Albert Lee: albert.j.lee23.mil@health.mil

SPECIALTY SPOTLIGHT



FACT FILE

Optometry



- **HEALTHCARE CLINICAL SPECIALTY**
- **SIZE: 96 AC/6 RC BILLETS**
- **SPECIALTY LEADER (SL)/ASST. SPECIALTY LEADERS (ASL):**
 - CAPT Robert Senko (SL)
 - CDRS Ann MacDonald and Megan Rieman (ASLs)
 - CAPT Sharlene Gee, Reserve Optometry SL
- **CORE MISSION:**
 - Navy Optometrists “provide the sight to fight” and are force multipliers for vision readiness in air, on land, and at sea around the globe!
- **WHERE DO OPTOMETRISTS SERVE?**
 - Navy Medicine Readiness & Training Commands/Units (NMRTC/Us)
 - Expeditionary Medical Systems (EXMEDS)
 - Hospital Ships
 - Naval Ophthalmic Readiness Activity (NORA)
 - NAMRU-D, NAMI, NAVAIR
 - Tri-Service Vision Conservation and Readiness

HISTORY Optometry



- The Navy contracted out optometry services prior to, and until, World War II. On April 1, 1941, **LT Ralph Coops** became the **first commissioned optometrist** in the Navy serving as a "Hospital Volunteer Specialist."
- In 1947, Optometry was one of **four** distinct divisions of the new Medical Service Corps and optometrists accounted for **five percent** of the 251 MSC plankowners.
- In March 1957, MSC plankowner Raymond Sullivan became the first optometrist promoted to the rank of Captain (O-6).
- The roots of the **Naval Ophthalmic Readiness Activity (NDRA)** go back to **June 1945** with the establishment of the Navy Optical School at the Naval Supply Depot in Brooklyn, N.Y.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

FORGING A LIFELINE BETWEEN TWO NATIONS: COLLABORATION ON BLOOD PROGRAMS

By: LCDR Akakpossa Ananou, Director, Joint Blood Program, USINDOPACOM Command Surgeon Office

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) Surgeon Office and the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Health Service Command (AFP-HSC) held the first blood program subject matter exchange between the U.S. military and the Philippines from 13-15 May 2024 in Manila, Philippines.

The three-day exchange focused on enhancing blood programs and forging stronger ties with critical Philippine medical organizations by sharing best practices, evaluating challenges, and exploring opportunities for collaboration in blood programs and transfusion medicine. By leveraging collective expertise and resources, the goal of the program is to enhance capabilities to provide safe and adequate blood products to Service members, their families and local communities.

The initiative was led by LCDR Akakpossa Ananou, the USINDOPACOM Joint Blood Program Officer, and included U.S. Service members to include U.S. Army MAJ Nekkeya Glover, the 18th Medical Command blood consultant; U.S. Army MAJ Sarah Matthews, U.S. Forces Korea Area Joint Blood Program Officer; and HMCS (FMF/SW) Joseph Deering, the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group Liaison Officer.

It was coordinated with Philippine Army Maj. Jennifer Mateo, who heads the pathology and laboratory department at the Victoriano Luna Medical Center (VLMC) in Manila, and brought together the AFP-HSC, the Philippine National Police (PNP) Health Service Command, and the San Lazaro Hospital.

Maj. Mateo said the event was "a transformative journey towards achieving a common goal — blood interoperability and sustainability."

Over 36 participants delved into various aspects of blood program management, including donor recruitment, blood collection, testing, storage and distribution. The open dialogue facilitated a transfer of ideas, allowing both sides to learn from each other's experiences and to

pave the way for future cooperation.

The team also conducted engagements with key Philippine leaders, including Brig. Gen. Fatima Navarro, the AFP Surgeon General; Police Brig. Gen. Jezebel Medina, the PNP Health Service Director; Col. Jonna Dalaguit, Chief of VLMC; and Dr. Iftizar Haron and Dr. Dinarazad Miranda from the San Lazaro Hospital. These high-level discussions focused on strategic priorities, resource allocation, and developing robust blood programs to enhance operational readiness and to save lives during emergencies and contingencies.

The initiative represents a significant step toward ensuring blood product availability in the Indo-Pacific region for humanitarian and disaster relief, and underscores the commitment of both nations to fostering closer collaboration in blood planning and management.



Manila, Philippines. Subject matter expert exchange occurs during the Philippines National Police General Hospital tour and a Key Leader Engagement event. Pictured above, Front row (L-R): LCDR Akakpossa Ananou, Med Lab Science, and Police Brig. Gen. Jezebel D Medina, Director, PNP Health Services; Second row (L-R): Police Col. Dominic P Guevarra, Commanding Officer, PNP General Hospital; MAJ Nekkeya Glover, Med Lab Science; and Police Captain Desiree Dialola, Aide-de-camp. Last row: MAJ Sarah Matthews, Med Lab Science.



Manila, Philippines. Pictured above: USINDOPACOM Joint Blood Officers visit the San Lazaro Hospital during the first blood program subject matter exchange between the U.S. military and the Philippines from 13-15 May 2024. The San Lazaro Hospital is a 500-bed tertiary health facility a referral facility for communicable diseases.



Quezon City, Philippines. Pictured above: Participants pose for a group photo during the first blood program subject matter exchange between the U.S. military and the Philippines from 13-15 May 2024. The Victoriano Luna General Hospital (or simply V. Luna General Hospital), also known as Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center, is one of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Wide Support Units tasked to provide medical care to military personnel and eligible civilians.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

2024 NAVY MEDICINE LOGISTICS SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS SUPPORT TO HIGH-END FIGHT

By: MMC John Grandin, Communications Directorate, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery



Falls Church, Va. Pictured above: Attendees of the 2024 Navy Medicine Logistics Summit take a group photo at the Defense Health Headquarters on 5 June 2024. The three-day summit gathered more than 80 medical logisticians to communicate readiness updates in alignment with the U.S. Navy Surgeon General's lines of effort and to recognize top performers. (U.S. Navy photo by Bobbie A. Camp)

The Navy Medicine Logistics Summit brought together medical logisticians from across the Service to discuss key issues and to celebrate top performers at Defense Health Headquarters from 4-6 June 2024.

Formerly known as the Navy Medicine Business Operations Training Symposium (NMBOTS), the summit marked the first in-person gathering since 2019. Over the course of three days, 80 attendees participated in discussions about the Navy Medicine 2027 Campaign Plan, the challenges of forward sustainment in complex environments, and fostering collaboration within the Navy Medicine logistics community.

"I can't think of a more exciting time to be in Navy Medicine with the new capabilities that are coming online," stated RADM Rick Freedman, the U.S. Navy Deputy Surgeon General. "We have an incredible opportunity to integrate medical logistics with other maritime functions for distributed maritime operations."

Presenters communicated goals outlined in the campaign plan, reviewed past, current, and future efforts to maintain medical logistics readiness, and identified areas for improvement within the community. The event was able to strengthen relationships

and to encourage collaboration while providing career development opportunities.

"Attending the Navy Medicine Logistics Summit for the first time after five years in the Navy has been truly enlightening," said LT Anthony Bah, the material management department head at the U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Iwakuni, Japan. "The demos, particularly their transition and the imminent sunset of certain systems by 2027, have sparked a keen interest in logistics for me. I now recognize the importance of investing in technology and acquiring IT skills, not just for medical logistics but to broaden my capabilities. This summit has motivated me to pursue a path of continual growth and adaptability in my military career."

The event provided a platform to highlight the essential role of logistics in maintaining medical readiness and supporting quality healthcare and patient safety of Navy personnel around the world.

The summit recognized the dedication and achievements of outstanding individuals across various categories: Enlisted Supply Technician of the Year, LS1 Curtis A. Smith; Junior Logistician of the Year, LT Sarah R. Chombeau; Operational Bio-Medical Equipment Technician of the Year, HM1 Mi-

chael Lorenzo Nugpo; Cross Functional Team of the Year Operations, Design and Logistics Team from Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command; CDR Robert A. Edgar Award for Military Operational Medical Logistician of the Year, LCDR Anthony P. Ochiltree; Senior Shore-Based Medical Logistician of the Year, LCDR Elena V. Williams; Shore-Based Bio-Medical Equipment Technician of the Year, HM1 Rick E. Brown; Civilian Medical Logistician or Supply Technician of the Year, Ms. Laurie Beck; and Civilian Medical Equipment and Technology Professional of the Year, Mr. Eric B. Jones.

"The senior leadership's passion is palpable, and rare in today's environment," said LS1 Smith, from 2nd Medical Logistics Company. "I'm determined to carry this commitment back to my workplace, instilling it in my junior Sailors. It's about igniting their potential, fueling their growth, and passing on the torch of inspiration."

Navy Medicine — represented by more than 44,000 highly-trained military and civilian health care professionals — provides enduring expeditionary medical support to the Warfighter on, below, above the sea, and ashore.



Falls Church, Va. Pictured left (R-L) RADM Rick Freedman, the U.S. Navy Deputy Surgeon General and Deputy Chief of the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, presents LT Sarah R. Chombeau, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Oki-nawa, with the Junior Logistician of the Year award during the 2024 Navy Medicine Logistics Summit at Defense Health Headquarters on 4 June 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Bobbie A. Camp)

Falls Church, Va. Pictured right: RADM Rick Freedman, second from far right, presents the Operations, Design and Logistics Team from Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command with the Cross-Functional Team of the Year award during the 2024 Navy Medicine Logistics Summit at Defense Health Headquarters, on 4 June 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Bobbie A. Camp)



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

NAVY'S "MINI RESIDENCY" PROGRAM GETS PHARMACISTS READY TO DEPLOY

By: Ms. Jodie Tillman, Writer/Content Strategist, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists



When LT Hunter Maxwell (pictured above, left) joined the Navy right out of pharmacy school, he got an unusual opportunity to enroll in a new training program that teaches inpatient pharmacy skills necessary for deployment. LT Maxwell, who until then had worked only in retail settings, jumped at the chance.

"It's like a mini residency that helps us forward deploy pharmacists," explained LT Maxwell, based at A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC) in Fort Belvoir, Va.

Now nearly two years old, the Navy began the Pharmacy Officer Readiness Training (PORT) program after several leaders identified skill gaps among stationed and deployed pharmacist officers. One of those leaders was American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) member, LCDR Chirag H. Patel, who had been stationed U.S. Naval Hospital Guam at the time. LCDR Patel, who is now assigned to ATAMMC, said deployed pharmacists must be comfortable doing everything from managing drug shortages to making IVs.

"A lot of our pharmacy officers are great at outpatient pharmacy," said LCDR Patel, "but inpatient pharmacy is a skill not everybody has."

Once LCDR Patel returned from Guam, he talked with a colleague, LCDR James Spence, about finding a way to ensure pharmacy officers were prepared for missions. A survey of Navy pharmacists also indicated a need for a training program. Residency programs are essential for performing many patient care services and required for positions within specialties. But for new officers joining the Navy fresh out of pharmacy school, according to LCDR Patel, residencies are not necessarily realistic.

"These are like wartime skills," LCDR Patel said. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if the pharmacists could do a residency? It was like how do we bring this program to reality while still working in the spaces we're in?"

Experts in the Navy developed a hands-on training program, including clinical exposure, at five sites. All new pharmacy officers are eligible to participate. One of the earliest participants was LT Meagan B. Rawers (pictured right), now a satellite division officer at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. LT Rawers did have some inpatient experience. She joined the Navy after practicing for two years at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center following graduation from pharmacy school. But the PORT program helped her develop new skills.

"One of the biggest things was supply chain," said LT Rawers. "The pharmacists here are constantly placing medication orders, looking at shortages, and as a civilian pharmacist, that always felt more on the administrative side for me. In Navy pharmacy, it's us doing all of that, so we have to know how the supply chain works. Part of the PORT program walks you through how to make therapeutic interchanges and how to do the ordering and the budgeting."

The Navy employs pharmacists in more than 250 facilities in the U.S. and overseas. As part of the Navy Medical Service Corps, pharmacists also lead personnel at national medical centers in Bethesda, Md.; Portsmouth, Va.; and San Diego, Calif. They have also been called on to provide support aboard aircraft carriers or one of two dedicated hospital ships, the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy.

LT Rawers noted that historically, pharmacists haven't served on medical ships for long periods of time. However, the Navy's not-yet-launched medical expeditionary unit ships will include pharmacists on the healthcare teams. She has already toured one as part of a team making recommendations, including helping create a medication allowance list.

"When I first joined the Navy, I thought, well, pharmacists don't really deploy, but this will be really good experience to serve other people who serve our country and use my specialty in a support role," said LT Rawers.

LT Maxwell said his eight months in the PORT program included doing bedside tasks, working with nurses, and talking to clinical pharmacists and physicians on their rounds. He also helped prepare presentations, including one on traumatic brain injuries.

Now serving as the officer in charge of inpatient pharmacy at ATAMMC, LT Maxwell said he feels better prepared for future missions. "If our name gets called, we can go out and have the capabilities to run an inpatient setting," he said.

NECE MAKES DEBUT AT FLEET WEEK MIAMI

By: LT Thomas Kleier, Entomology, Public Affairs Officer, Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE)

For the first time in its history, the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) participated in Fleet Week Miami engaging with local communities and schools from 5 to 12 May 2024.

Fleet Week Miami is one of the Navy's premier community outreach programs to inform the public about the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, to explain how they meet their missions, and to highlight the skills of America's Servicemembers in defense of the nation.

NECE presented on entomology, a branch of zoology dealing with the scientific study of insects, with hopes to foster interest in the many career paths the Navy offers. Entomology is one of several Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers within the United States Navy.

NECE staff members who participated included LT Thomas Kleier, department head of testing and evaluation; LTJG John So, department head of global health operations; HMCS (FMF/SW/AW) Jesse Evans, senior enlisted leader; EN1 (SW) Benfry DeJesus, leading petty officer; HM2 (FMF) Mauro Ortiz, preventive medicine technician, readiness and training department; and HN Stephanie Casarrubias, preventive medicine technician of the operational forces support department.

"Fleet Week was a great experience overall," said HN Casarrubias. "I loved being part of the team that got to interact with the Boys and Girls Clubs all around Miami. The kids were so eager to learn and look at the cool bugs we had. Many people don't know about entomologists and preventive medicine technicians and how they tie into the Navy, so Fleet Week gave us the opportunity to let people know how important our roles are and what we do for the fleet."

Throughout the week, NECE's team led an informational

booth within the Norwegian Cruise Terminal and interacted with hundreds of guests that were touring the USS BATAAN (LHD 5).

NECE personnel also led outreach events at the Frost Science Museum, the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens (Zoo Miami), Boys and Girls Club of Miami, and the Fleet Week Innovation Night, where, according to the World Affairs Council Miami, "participants embarked on a journey of discovery as we unveil the intricate web of innovation, technology, and strategic partnerships driving the U.S. Navy's mission to confront global challenges and excel in cyberspace."

LT Kleier, Entomology, said participating in Fleet Week Miami was an absolute joy for the team. "Interacting with our civilian counterparts and providing education on why Navy Entomology is such a valuable force multiplier for the Navy was very rewarding," he said. "I am very proud to be a part of the first ever NECE team Fleet Week and hope Navy Entomology has more opportunities to collaborate for future events."

NECE is the Navy and Marine Corps' Center of Excellence for operational entomology located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla. NECE's unique DoD mission is to develop and evaluate novel products, pesticides, and technologies to better protect deployed forces from vectors of disease. NECE also provides operational medical entomology and pest management training to DoD military and civilian personnel and is the program manager for all Navy shipboard pest management. NECE plays a key role in supporting national strategic interests through engagement and exchange with foreign health and military partners.



Miami, Fla. Pictured above in the background (R-L) LTJG John So and HM2 Mauro Ortiz of Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) led an outreach event with the Boys and Girls Club of Miami During Fleet Week Miami on 6 May 2024. This event marked the NECE's first time participating in Fleet Week one of the Navy's premier community outreach programs. (U.S. Navy photo by HN Stephanie Casarrubias)



Miami, Fla. Pictured above in the far right (L-R): SCPO Jesse Evans and EN1 Benfry DeJesus of Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) show guests a variety of medically important insects like mosquitoes and ticks during Fleet Week Miami on 6 May 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by LT Thomas Kleier)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

80th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY IN NORMANDY

By: CDR Alexander Aldana, Senior Health Facility Program and Project Officer (HFPPO), Ramstein, Germany

Edited by: LCDR Brendan Good, HFPPO Specialty Leader, Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, Va.



Colleville-sur-Mer, France. Pictured above: Veterans attend a ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial on 6 June 2024. (Photo courtesy of Christian Hartmann / Reuters)

The sixth of June 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings along the Normandy coast during World War II, the invasion that began the liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe. OPERATION OVERLORD delivered five naval assault divisions to the beaches of Normandy, France. The beaches were given the code names: UTAH, OMAHA, GOLD, JUNO, and SWORD.

At dawn on 6 June 1944, a fleet of 7,000 ships, including battleships, destroyers, minesweepers, escorts, and assault craft took part in OPERATION NEPTUNE, the naval component of OVERLORD. On board were 133,000 men preparing to land across the five assault beaches. A major air and naval offensive operation preceded the assault. By the end of that evening, more than 156,000 allied soldiers, including 23,000 paratroopers and 20,000 vehicles, made it to France. The D-Day landings are considered the largest amphibious and airborne operation in military history.

Approximately 4,400 Allied troops died on the first

day of the invasion, including 2,501 Americans. The operation was a crucial turning point in World War II, leading to the establishment of a foothold in mainland Europe and the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany in May 1945.

D-Day was first commemorated in June 1945, just a month after the Allied victory against Nazi Germany. It has been memorialized on each anniversary since, with larger remembrances being held every five years.

Why is THIS year so special? Recent estimates suggest there are only a few thousand D-Day veterans still alive today; the youngest are in their late 90s and this may have been their last major ceremony in Normandy honoring them in their presence. Slightly more than 200 veterans made the trip, 180 of whom were American.

Why do they continue to come back to relive these horrible memories? The majority say they want to pay their respects to those that did not



survive and ensure that future generations remember the sacrifices of those who fought and died.

Locally, an unprecedented program of events was put together to bring the memory of this tragic period in world history to life, all while highlighting the spirit of hope. This festival brought together more than 150 events: parachute drops, re-enactments of military camps, bagpipe parades, military vehicle exhibitions, folk dances, concerts with music from the time period, Normandy running events, and many more. With 94 memorial sites, 44 museums, 21 memorials and natural sites, and 29 cemeteries, there were events and activities for everyone.

More than 9,300 Americans are buried at the 172.5-acre Normandy American cemetery. Just over 300 headstones are marked unknown. A "Wall of the Missing" displays nearly 1,600 names of Americans declared missing or lost at sea.

Normandy is a land of remembrance and history, welcoming visitors from all countries and all generations to share the memory of those who fought for peace and freedom.



Normandy, Germany. Pictured above: CDR Alexander Aldana, HFPPO, completes the D-Day Marathon de la Liberté on 2 June 2024.



Colleville-sur-Mer, France. Pictured left: Wall of the Missing displays nearly 1,600 names of Americans who were declared missing or lost at sea. (Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wallace)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

MSC OFFICERS RECOGNIZED AS NEW FACHEs

By: LT Aaron Abreu, POMI, Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, Va.

The American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) is an organization that prides itself on being a cornerstone for leadership excellence in the healthcare industry. The Fellow Accelerator Program (FAP) is a testament to this commitment, advancing its members to the highest professional development and ethical standards in healthcare management.

This year, 20 new Fellows were part of the 2024 Convocation at the Annual Congress in Chicago, Ill. Being a Fellow of the ACHE represents a significant achievement. It signals a dedication to excellence in the field, adherence to a stringent code of ethics, and a commitment to lifelong learning. The distinction of FACHE (Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives) signifies competency, leadership, and a promise to improve community health. For healthcare executives, this accreditation bolsters individual career opportunities. It contributes to raising the standard of organizational performance and community health outcomes. To see the impact of attaining FACHE from our Fellows, please visit our website [here](#) for success stories. Congratulations to our newest fellows:

LCDR Ato Kwamena A. Anderson, FACHE
LCDR Jessica T. Atterbury, FACHE
LT Harold O. Baring, FACHE
LCDR Dale M. Baumbach Jr. FACHE
CDR David J. Cavallario FACHE
CAPT Derrick H. Colmenar, MD, FACHE
CAPT Ian M. Fowler, MD, FACHE
LT Paul R. Henderson Sr., FACHE
CAPT Brenda K. Malone, FACHE
LT Herbie M. Medalla, FACHE
CDR Eric Miller, FACHE
CDR Stephanie M. Paone, FACHE
LCDR Rhys A. Parker, DNP, RN, FACHE
LCDR Raymond Posey Jr., FACHE
LCDR Adam M. Preston, OD, FACHE
LCDR Luke C. Richmond, FACHE

LT Jessica Sanders, FACHE
LCDR Raben B. Talvo, FACHE
HMC Jeremy Velasquez, FACHE
CDR Damita J. Zweiback, DPA, FACHE

The Fellow Accelerator Program has expanded since its inception in 2021. To date, we have 360 members across various federal agencies and all the Armed Forces. This year, we expanded the program to include our civilian healthcare partners.

The Spring 2024 Cohort, which is set to commence in September 2024, is not just an opportunity for current healthcare professionals. It is a chance for everyone who is passionate about healthcare leadership to make a significant and tangible difference in our community. We value your unique perspectives and experiences, and we invite you to be a part of this esteemed program. Please click [here](#) for more details.

The Fellow Accelerator Program, with its rigorous standards and expansive network, is a catalyst for excellence in healthcare management and leadership. This initiative is not just about individuals, it is about the collective impact we can make on the quality of healthcare communities. It empowers individuals to lead with vision and integrity, playing a pivotal role in maintaining and enhancing the quality of healthcare communities. It is a testament to ACHE's vision to advance health care and a beacon of hope for the future of healthcare leadership!





LCDR Jessica T. Atterbury, FACHE



LT Harold O. Baring, FACHE



LCDR Raymond Posey Jr., FACHE



LCDR Adam M. Preston, OD, FACHE



LCDR Luke C. Richmond, FACHE



LT Jessica Sanders, FACHE



LT Herbie M. Medalla, FACHE



LCDR Luke C. Richmond, FACHE

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

A NEW NAVY RATING! ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROBOTICS WARFARE SPECIALIST RATING

By: LT Debra Houst, LCDR Eric Vorm, LCDR Mike Natali, & CDR Jake Norris



Twentynine Palms, Calif. Pictured left: Marines from 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment conduct autonomous casualty evacuation during the annual Marine Air-Ground Task Force Warfighting Exercise (MWX) at Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms in October 2023. Utilizing prototype autonomous vehicles, a team of researchers under the direction of LCDR Eric Vorm, AEP, carried out field experiments to test the viability of using autonomous vehicles for casualty evacuation in a variety of realistic environments and conditions. The results of these experiments contributed to the development of the Navy's Robotics Warfare Specialist (RW) rating.

On 24 February 2024, the Department of the Navy released [NAVADMIN 036/24](#), announcing the establishment of the Robotics Warfare Specialist (RW) Rating — the first new Navy rating in many years. This milestone was achieved through a collaborative effort among active duty officers, enlisted sailors, civilians, and contractors from across the U.S. Navy. Medical Service Corps (MSC) scientists at multiple Naval research laboratories played pivotal roles in this accomplishment.

The inception of the RW rating started in 2016 when CDR Jake Norris, a research psychologist (RP) then assigned to Naval Information Warfare Pacific (NIWC PAC), initiated a pilot study with Navy Unmanned Maritime Systems (UMS) operators to evaluate personnel traits associated with successful operations with unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) in expeditionary mine hunting. The integration of UUVs into operations by UMS Platoons within Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Units highlighted the need to understand human performance in this context. CDR Norris consulted with then CDR Chris Steele, RP, and leveraged his expertise to develop more research ideas aimed at maintaining vigilance and reducing burnout within that community, marking the onset of collaboration across Navy Medicine and MSC specialties.

This coordination expanded to Dr. Rachel Markwald

and CDR Shawn Soutiere, both RPs at Naval Health Research Center (NHRC). Likewise they recognized the importance of investigating these new unmanned systems and the requisite traits for their operation. This culminated into joint proposals and funding between NIWC Pac and NHRC. LCDR Dale Hirsch, RP, as well as Dr. Tim Dunn, and Mr. Brandon Schrom at NHRC, spearheaded the fatigue profiling studies with UMS operators. Their work not only laid the foundation for a unique partnership with the Mine Warfare community but also facilitated trust between the line and medical communities.

In parallel, Dr. Michael Qin, program officer at the Office of Naval Research (ONR), initiated a research program in 2018 with Navy Surface Warfare Center-Dahlgren and Navy Submarine Medical Research Lab (NSMRL) to explore tactics, techniques, and procedures for employing cutting-edge robotics in expeditionary settings. This research from Dr. Qin, along with Dr. Ben Wheeler and Dr. Ethan Hada, provided actionable knowledge and allowed for rapid exploration of emerging technologies in combat environments. Dr. Qin, after hearing about CDR Norris' work, invited them into his experimentation events to consult on human performance measurement.

LCDR Eric Vorm, an Aerospace Experimental Psychologist (AEP) at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), partnered with CDR Norris to develop a model



Pittsburgh, Pa. Pictured above (L-R): Dr. Ben Wheeler, NSWC-Dahlgren; Adam Leibowitz, ONR; CDR Jake Norris, ONR (now DON OFR); LCDR Eric Vorm, Pax-River; and CDR Mike Natali, NAWCTSD (now ONR) tour Carnegie Mellon University's National Robotics Engineering Center in advance of its contract to test new ways to train a military robotics specialist on 28 February 2023.

of intellectual readiness for future warfare, focusing on robotics and artificial intelligence. LCDR Vorm's diverse background enhanced the theoretical understanding of human-machine teaming in austere combat environments and granted him access to Carnegie Mellon University's (CMU) National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC), where he briefed key stakeholders, including SECNAV and Joint Strategic Plans and Policy (J5). This work proved critical to the larger RW vision.

In Fall 2021, a Robotics Rating Working Group was established under the direction of CAPT Matthew LaPointe, activated reservist with a background with robotics and artificial intelligence companies. Assisted by Mr. Hui Pak, and under the directive of RADM James Waters, OPNAV N13, the working group's vision aligned with the efforts already made at NIWC PAC, ONR, NHRC, and NRL, further accelerated progress in implementing the RW rating.

CDR Norris led this initiative on the Navy Medicine side, aligning with CAPT LaPointe and OPNAV N13 to coordinate various groups in support of the Robotics Working Group. This work formally pulled all the threads together with OPNAV N1 entities as part of a Flag-charter working group. This involved the NIWC PAC team, led by LT Debbie Houst, a research and clinical psychologist, the NHRC team, Q's team,

and added LCDR Mike Natali at Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD). Together, they continued their work and translated those findings into the necessary framework and terminology used to formally create the new RW rating.

The financial resources provided by ONR, facilitated by CDR Norris and Dr. Qin, and collaborative efforts across the Fleet, Navy Medicine, and MSCs, contributed to the development of the RW rating, accomplishing in 12 months what would have normally taken three years. Looking ahead, LCDR Natali is continuing where CDR Norris left off as the new ONR program officer. ONR aims to further expedite timelines by utilizing Dr. Qin's framework to validate a training curriculum in partnership between NSWC-Dahlgren and CMU NREC. NIWC PAC's team, led by LT Houst, will explore robotics requirements at the officer level, while NHRC will provide ongoing testing in human performance to guide policy updates for the growing RW community. CAPT LaPointe anticipates significant contributions from MSCs in supporting this effort, highlighting their potential in shaping the future of naval operations.

MSCs IN FOCUS



Houston, Texas. Pictured above (R-L): CAPT Carl Long, Physician Assistant Specialty Leader, presents the Outstanding Uniformed Services Physician Assistant of the Year award from the Veterans Caucus of the American Academy of Physician Assistants to LCDR Carolyn Whitney, PA-C, at the 2024 American Academy of Physician Assistants Conference. LCDR Whitney is stationed at NMRTC Camp Lejeune where she serves as the Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Program Director.



Lynchburg, Va. Pictured above: LT Kionna Myles, HCA, graduates with a doctorate in Healthcare Administration from the Virginia University of Lynchburg in May 2024. LT Myles is the director of the mission support directorate at Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command-Detachment Fort Detrick.

JUNE 12, 2024



WOMEN VETERANS
RECOGNITION DAY

The **Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948** allowed women to serve as permanent members of the military.

Today, along with Lt. E. Shae Thomson, Medical Service Corps, Environmental Health Officer, NMRTU Everett, there are 8,000+ women serving in the Hospital Corps. They help ensure Navy Medicine continues to project Medical Power in support of Naval Superiority.



Bremerton, Wash. Pictured left: LT E. Shae Thomson, an Environmental Health Officer assigned to Navy Medicine Readiness Training Unit Everett, a branch health clinic of parent command Navy Medicine Readiness Training Command (NMRTC) Bremerton, is featured as part of Women Veterans Recognition Day at NMRTC Bremerton. In the early years after the end of the World War II, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 — 76 years ago — was implemented to allow women to serve as permanent members of the military. Today, approximately one in five Navy personnel are women — as of December 2023. (Official Navy graphic by MC2 Jennifer Benedict, NHB/ NMRTC Bremerton public affairs)



Baltimore, Md. Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC) participates in this year's Maryland Fleet Week specifically on 12 June 2024. Maryland Fleet Week is a biannual public event that celebrates the contributions of the U.S. Sea services and maritime capabilities of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Coast Guard. Throughout the week, participants can tour ships, experience military static displays and watch drill and musical performances that showcase the expertise, excellence and patriotism of America's maritime services. NMRC is engaged in a broad spectrum of medical research, from basic science in the laboratory to field studies in austere and remote areas of the world to investigations in operational environments. In support of the Navy, Marine Corps, and joint U.S. warfighters, NMRC researchers study infectious diseases, biological warfare detection and defense, combat casualty care, environmental health concerns, aerospace and undersea medicine, medical modeling, simulation, operational mission support, epidemiology and behavioral sciences. Pictured above: A few NMRC staff members who participated include CAPT Franca Jones, commander of Naval NMRC, and HMC Shiva Giri (top left); LT Yuliya Johnson (top right); and LTJG Eric Fotso (bottom photo). (U.S. Navy Tommy Lamkin /Released)

MSCs IN FOCUS



Dayton, Ohio. Pictured above: CAPT Walt Dalitsch III (left), Naval Medical Research Unit Dayton commanding officer, is relieved of command by CAPT William Howard (right) as CAPT Franca Jones (center), Naval Medical Research Command commander, officiates the transition during the change-of-command ceremony held on 31 May 2024 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. CAPT Dalitsch led the Command for more than three years before handing over to CAPT Howard, who has served several previously served in the command as a department head, senior scientific advisor, and executive officer during previous assignments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Rich Oriez)



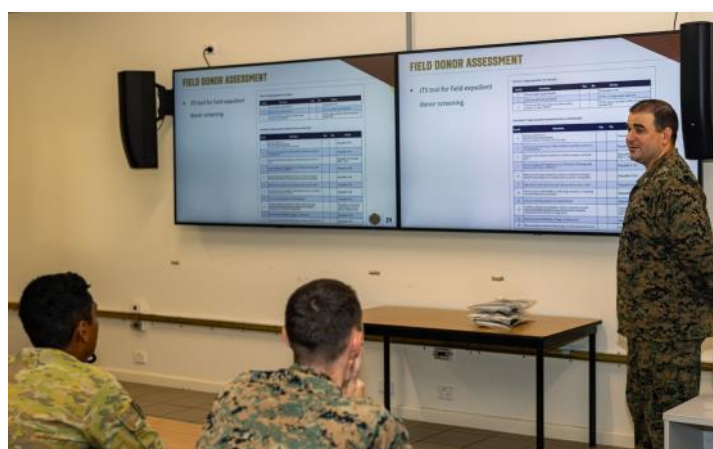
Camp Pendleton, Calif. Pictured above in the foreground (R-L): LCDR Yui Wong and LT Erin Wippermann, both physical therapists at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, provide subject matter expertise to the staff and students of Field Medical Training Battalion-West aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton on 29 March 2024. FMTB-West is the Navy Enlisted Classification code — producing school for the Navy and Marine Corps on the West coast and providing ready and trained Field Medical Service Technicians to the Marine Corps, Navy Expeditionary Forces, Naval Construction Battalions, and throughout the Navy fleet. (Photo courtesy of CAPT William Plummer III)



Williamsburg, Va. Pictured above: Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command (NMRLC) holds a change of command ceremony at its headquarters on Cheatham Annex on 23 May 2024. CAPT Christopher Barnes (right) formally succeeded CAPT Matthew Marcinkiewicz (left) as NMRLC's new commanding officer. RDML Matthew Case (center), Commander, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic and Director, Defense Health Network Atlantic/Chief of the Medical Service Corps was the presiding officer.



Bremerton, Wash. Pictured above: LCDR Evan Romrell, Pharmacy/Pharmacy assistant department head at Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB), plays a crucial daily role in establishing the vital programs and protocols for ScriptCenter, the automated and secure prescription refill dispenser — far exceeding Defense Health Agency expectations as well as civilian counterparts. NHB's efforts, led by LCDR Romrell, have elevated itself to the largest user of ScriptCenter in the country, even compared to locations such as Mayo Clinic, Vanderbilt, and John Hopkins (Official Navy photo by Douglas H Stutz, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton public affairs officer).



Darwin, Australia. Pictured above: LT Brett Marion, Med Lab Science, teaches U.S. Navy Corpsmen and Australian Army soldiers with 1st Health Battalion, 2nd Health Brigade, about blood transfusions during Valkyrie emergency fresh whole blood transfusion training at Robertson Barracks, on 15 May 2024. The Valkyrie program enables military units to self-supply blood through emergency donor panels by adequate training, rehearsal, and preparation, gaining the skills and knowledge to efficiently collect whole blood, and conduct blood transfusions in the event of a casualty. LT Marion is assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 5 (Reinforced), Marine Rotational Force – Darwin 24.3. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Juan Torres)

MSCs IN FOCUS



Starke, Fla. Military personnel from Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nigeria, and the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) pose for a photo in front of an operational laboratory tent used during the Gator Dawn 24 exercise on 1 May 2024 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Gator Dawn is a five-day long Preventive Medicine Field Exchange organized by the NECE's Global Health Operations department. The purpose of the event is to augment professional military support practices, to strengthen enduring multinational relationships, and to build interoperability in operational settings — all aimed at combating vector-borne diseases. Pictured above: LT Nicholas Johnston and LTJG John So, both entomologists, on the far right. On the far left are EN2(SW) Jakob Ireland, HM2(FMF) Mauro Ortiz, and HN Stephanie Casarrubias. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matt Riggs)



San Antonio, Texas. Pictured above: CAPT Donna Poulin (fifth from left), the former chief of engineering solutions, Engineering Solutions Architecture, Business Analytics Division, meets with military HIT leaders in April 2024. LCDR "Gean" Boca (second from the left), is the winner of the 2023 Senior Information Technology Officer of the Year award from the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Awards in the Program Executive Office Medical Systems/CIO. This picture also includes from the left to right LCDR Jaime "Cris" Zhunepluas, LT Nicole Willis, LT Sergio Gallego, LCDR Yekaterina (Katya) Anderson, and LT Christopher Skirvin. (Photo: courtesy of the U.S. Navy)



Bremerton, Wash. Pictured above: A Navy family commissioning affair ... LTJG Catherine Basiga (left) and LTJG Paulo C. Guillen (right) are commissioned as Medical Service Corps officer on 3 June 2024 with hands-on help from their respective family members during a ceremony at NMRTC Bremerton. Both were selected last year via the MSC In-Service Procurement Program, which provides a pathway to an officer commission for career motivated active duty enlisted personnel, in pay grades E-5 through E-9, who meet the eligibility criteria defined. Opportunities are available in such specialties as healthcare administration, physician assistant, environmental health, entomology, radiation health, industrial hygiene, pharmacy, occupational therapy, and social work. (Official Navy photo by MC2 Jennifer Benedict, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton public affairs).



San Antonio, Texas. Pictured above: LCDR Jason Cole (middle), RHO/Director, Directed Energy Health Effects, Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio, participates in the Tri-Service Subject Matter Expert Panel Engagement Sessions during the inaugural AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Joining him were representatives from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR), U.S. Air Force 59th Medical Wing (59th MDW), Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Designed to promote cross-sector collaboration in the development of life-saving battlefield technologies, the summit combines three of San Antonio's leading life sciences events: Military Medical Industry Day (MMID), BexarBio pitch competition, and the San Antonio Military Health and Universities Research Forum (SURF). NAMRU San Antonio's mission is to conduct gap driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research to improve survival, operational readiness, and safety of Department of Defense (DoD) personnel engaged in routine and expeditionary operations. It is one of the leading research and development laboratories for the U.S. Navy under the DoD and is one of eight subordinate research commands in the global network of laboratories operating under the Naval Medical Research Command in Silver Spring, Md. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)

MSCs IN FOCUS



USS Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pearl Harbor Hawaii. Pictured above: CAPT(sel) Joseph G. Stastny, outgoing Officer in Charge of Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six, renders a salute while being piped aboard the USS Missouri Battleship Memorial during the unit's Change of Command Ceremony on 10 June 2024. (US Navy Photo by HM2 Matthew Cabelin)



Jacksonville, Fla. Pictured above: LTJG John So, Entomology, handles a venomous snake as part of the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence's (NECE) Snake Handling Training held in partnership with the Rattlesnake Conservancy at Naval Air Station Jacksonville held from 5-7 June 2024. The training course underscores NECE's commitment to force health protection by equipping Sailors with the skills necessary to handle and mitigate the risks posed by venomous snakes in various environments. (U.S. Navy Photo by LT Nicholas Johnston)



Jacksonville, Fla. LT Alexa Clifton, Physical Therapy, explains the use of dry needling to students from the Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts during the S2M2 program on 12 June 2024 at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. Twelve students completed a week of observation and training with hospital staff. (U.S. Navy photo by Julie M. Lucas, Naval Hospital Jacksonville/Released).



Arlington, Va. Pictured above: CAPT Katie Shobe (center), Research Psychology/Commanding Officer of the Naval Medical Leader and Professional Development Command (NMLPDC), participates in a panel for 1,500 attendees at the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium on 27 June 2024.



Agana Heights, Guam. Pictured above: Mr. Welman Lava (holding certificate) receives the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam Patient Safety High Reliability Organization Award on 24 June 2024. Acting Commanding Officer, CAPT Aaron Frank (center), Podiatry, recognized Mr. Welman for demonstrating his commitment to high reliability. The High Reliability Organization award is presented to members who demonstrated a commitment to enhancing operations to maintain a high standard of care, safety, quality, and efficiency over an extended period of time. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Hannah Shaw, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam)

MSCs IN FOCUS

MSC INVOLVEMENT IN TRIDENT EXERCISE

The annual Trident Exercise is a joint-maritime exercise designed to certify and validate training that is focused on key areas for special operations and conventional forces to work together effectively. During the exercise, Navy Medicine delivered agile, scalable, trained, and certified medical units to provide enduring support to the Fleet, Fleet Marine Force, and Joint Forces in high-end competition, crisis, and combat.



Virginia Beach, Va. Pictured left (L-R): LT Brandon Hasset, Microbiology, and LCDR Corey Fugate, Biochemistry, both with the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Two (NEPMU 2) that is attached to the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit Two (FDPMU 2), assemble a Bi-safety Pressurized glove box during the annual Trident Exercise on Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek on 5 June 2024. (Navy photo by Desmond Martin)

Virginia Beach, Va. Pictured right: LT Aure Stewart, a Radiation Health Officer with the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Two (NEPMU 2), attached to the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit One (FDPMU 2), educates participants about a device that can locate and identify radioactive isotopes during the annual Trident Exercise on 5 June 2024 on Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek. (Navy photo by Desmond Martin)



Little Creek, Virginia Beach, Va. Pictured left: LT Derrick Rivera Rodriguez, an Industrial Hygiene Officer with the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Two (NEPMU 2), attached to the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit Two (FDPMU 2), educates participants about a device that is used to identify different types of chemicals during the annual Trident Exercise on 5 June 2024 on Joint Expeditionary Base. (Navy photo by Desmond Martin)

EMPA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM KICKOFF

Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune celebrated its kickoff of the new Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Fellowship Program on 1 July 2024. The Navy Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant (EMPA) Fellowship was established in 2012 and was relocated to Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune in 2023. The fellowship will formally train Physician Assistants in the specialty of Emergency Medicine, providing services to various elements of the Operational Forces and BSO-18 commands upon successful graduation. These assignments include but are not limited to Emergency Resuscitative Surgical System (ERSS), Naval Special Warfare, Fleet Hospitals, Aircraft Carriers and USMC Division/Shock Trauma Platoons/Surgical Companies. Emergency medicine has been identified as a critical wartime specialty. This EMPA fellowship will be a force multiplier by producing educated and trained PAs in the specialty of emergency medicine. EMPA Fellows will enhance their clinical knowledge and skills in acute evaluation, resuscitation, medical decision making, critical care, and management of adult and pediatric patients. The fellowship includes rotations in various emergency departments, trauma, toxicology, radiology/ultrasound, anesthesia, critical care, surgical/neuro ICU, pediatrics, OB/GYN, optometry, and burn management with training experiences within military and civilian hospitals.



Camp Lejeune, N.C. Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune (NMCCL) staff members pose for a group photo during the Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant (EMPA) Fellowship Program kickoff celebration. The 18-month program will train Sailors in various clinic setting such as adult/pediatric emergency medicine, trauma, and critical care to become physician assistants (or PAs) specializing in emergency medicine. Pictured above, First row: CAPT Andrew Lin, Executive Officer, NMCCL; LCDR Carolan Whitney, EMPA, Fellowship Director; LT Kaiti Walter, EMPA Assistant Director; LT Jenny Oliver, EMPA Fellow; LCDR Michelle Miller, EMPA Subspecialty Leader; Ms. Evette McNair, EMPA Program Administrative Coordinator; LCDR Joshua Bautz, Emergency Medicine Department Head; and CDR Stephen Rogers, PA. Second row (L-R): Mr. Mickey Deavers, Retired MSC Officer/PA; CAPT Anja Dabelić, Commanding Officer, NMCCL; LCDR Ari Doucette, PA; LT Ryan Martzall, EMPA Fellow; Ms. Karen Wiley, Directorate of Professional Education (DPE), Institutional Coordinator, Administrative Support Assistant; CAPT Carl Long, PA Specialty Leader; CDR Ty Quinn, DPE Director; CDR Marc Kajut, Deputy Director of Medical Services; and LCDR Joshua Lange, Staff Education and Training Director.

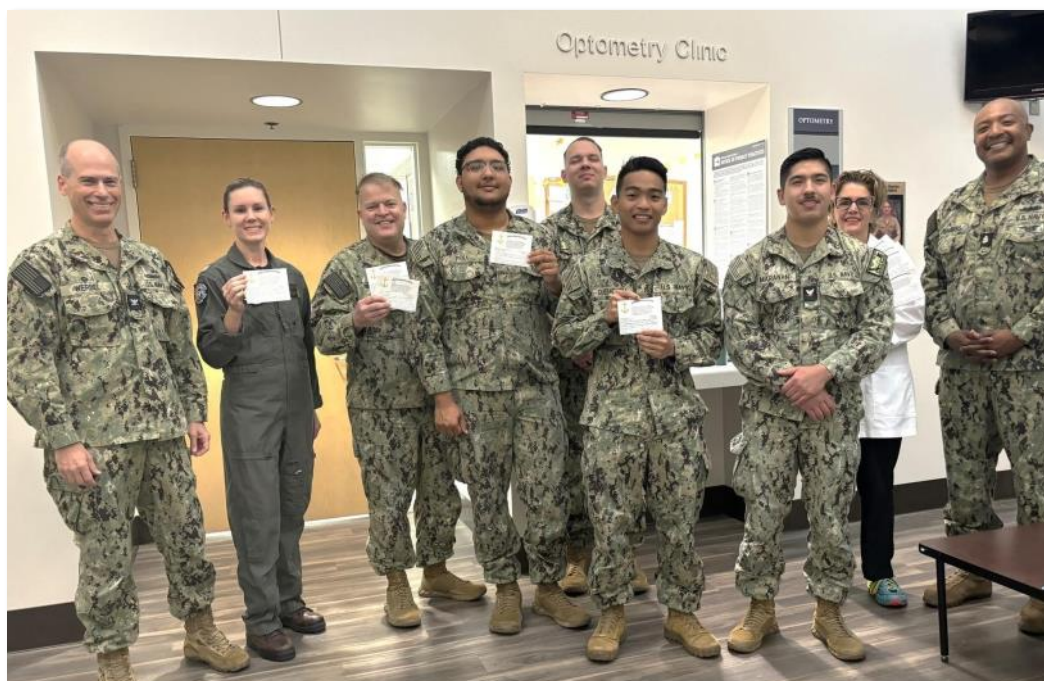
MSCs IN FOCUS



San Diego, Calif. Pictured above: LT Sherry Sandri (right), Optometry, recently graduated from Aerospace Optometry training and has reported to her first duty station as an Aerospace Optometrist at Naval Air Station North Island.



Chicago, Ill. Pictured above (R;L): CDR Patricia Salazar, Reserve Optometry; LCDR Mark Debano, Optometry; and LT Lauren Lattery, Optometry, visit the Illinois College of Optometry in order to serve as panelists with first year students. They shared their experiences of practicing as a Navy Optometrist and did a little recruiting as well during this evolution held in April 2024.



Lemoore, Calif. Naval Health Clinic Lemoore staff members participate in a "Commanding Officer and Command Master Chief - Excellent In Action Cards (EIAC) presentation" in order to recognize the Optometry Clinic with a "Bravo Zulu" due to the great care it provided to patients and staff members and for its role in providing a positive patient experience. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Aaron Werbel, Commanding Officer, NMRTC Lemoore; LT Cory Lawrence-Fisher, Aerospace Optometry/Department Head; CAPT Paul Andre, Optometry; HA Ruben Pena; HM2 Drayton Hale, L19A, Optician; HN Gerwinreil QuemQuem, L19A, Optician; HM3 Dilon Maranan; Mrs. Patricia Miguel, GS Medical Assistant; and HMC Jontrell Chambers, Acting Command Master Chief.



Millington, Tenn. Participants of the NMRTU Memphis Change of Charge ceremony celebrate after its conclusion on 31 May 2024. Pictured left (L-R): CAPT David W. Jones, Executive Officer, NMRTC Pensacola; CAPT Scott D. Coon, Commanding Officer, NMRTC Pensacola; CAPT Emily J. Sprague, outgoing Officer In Charge, NMRTU Memphis; CDR Jennifer C. Wallinger, incoming Officer In Charge, NMRTU Memphis, and HMCM Jeremy Dunlap, Command Master Chief, NMRTC Pensacola.



Chicago, Ill. RADM (Ret.) Michael Mittelman, who served as Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy from 2011 to 2013, is presented with the inaugural RADM Michael H. Mittelman Award for Excellence in Navy Aerospace Optometry from the Aerospace Medical Association during the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting hosted by the Aerospace Medical Association. RADM Mittelman is Navy Aerospace Optometrist #1. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Brian Hatch, Optometry; CAPT (Ret.) Tyson Brunstetter, Optometry; LCDR Adam Preston, Optometry; CDR Micah Kinney, Optometry; CDR Erica Poole, Optometry; CDR Megan Rieman, Optometry; and RADM (Ret.) Mittelman.

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The Medical Service Corps supports Navy Medicine's readiness and health benefits mission. It is the most diverse Officer Corps in Navy Medicine with 31 specialties organized under three major categories: Healthcare Administrators, Clinical Care Specialties, and Healthcare Scientists. There are over 3,000 active and reserve MSC Officers that serve at Military Treatment Facilities, on ships, with the Fleet Marine Force, with Seabee and special warfare units, in research centers and laboratories, in a myriad of staff positions with the Navy and Marine Corps, and with our sister services around the world.



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